



*"One of the benefits of doing conservation easements is that private landowners end up becoming advocates for land conservation."*

**Bridget Fithian**  
**Sierra Foothills Conservancy**

Hiker Near River  
Photograph courtesy of the SNC

## CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE SIERRA

The effects of climate change on the Region are expected to be significant and could have far-reaching consequences. At the same time, the forests and communities of the Sierra Nevada have the potential to contribute positively by reducing emissions, sequestering carbon, protecting the state's primary source of water, generating renewable energy and proactively adapting to changing conditions.

Based on this understanding, the SNC convened a symposium in December 2007 featuring Dr. Dan Cayan of both the Scripps Institution of Oceanography and the Water Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey, Mike Chrisman the California Secretary for Resources, and other experts in the field to learn more about:

- *potential impacts and consequences to the Region, such as expected changes in precipitation and temperature and their effects on the state's water supply, forest health, wildlife habitat and local economies;*
- *Sierra-specific tools and community strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to anticipated impacts in the Region.*

Following the symposium, based on input from attendees and other stakeholders, the SNC Governing Board directed staff to pursue development of a Climate Change Initiative for the Region. The SNC staff is working with local stakeholders, other agencies and the public to develop an effort based on the following general principles:

- *target efforts to add value and address "gaps" in knowledge or activity;*
- *collaborate and coordinate widely;*
- *avoid duplication of efforts;*
- *adopt a bias for action—avoid over-analysis and process gridlock; and*
- *focus on both adaptation and mitigation.*

The SNC continues to work closely with the Resources Agency, the California Tahoe Conservancy, the U.S. Forest Service and key stakeholder groups to identify the key elements of a recommended action plan. It is anticipated that a specific action plan will be completed in early 2009.

Audio: ► [KXJZ Interviews](#)